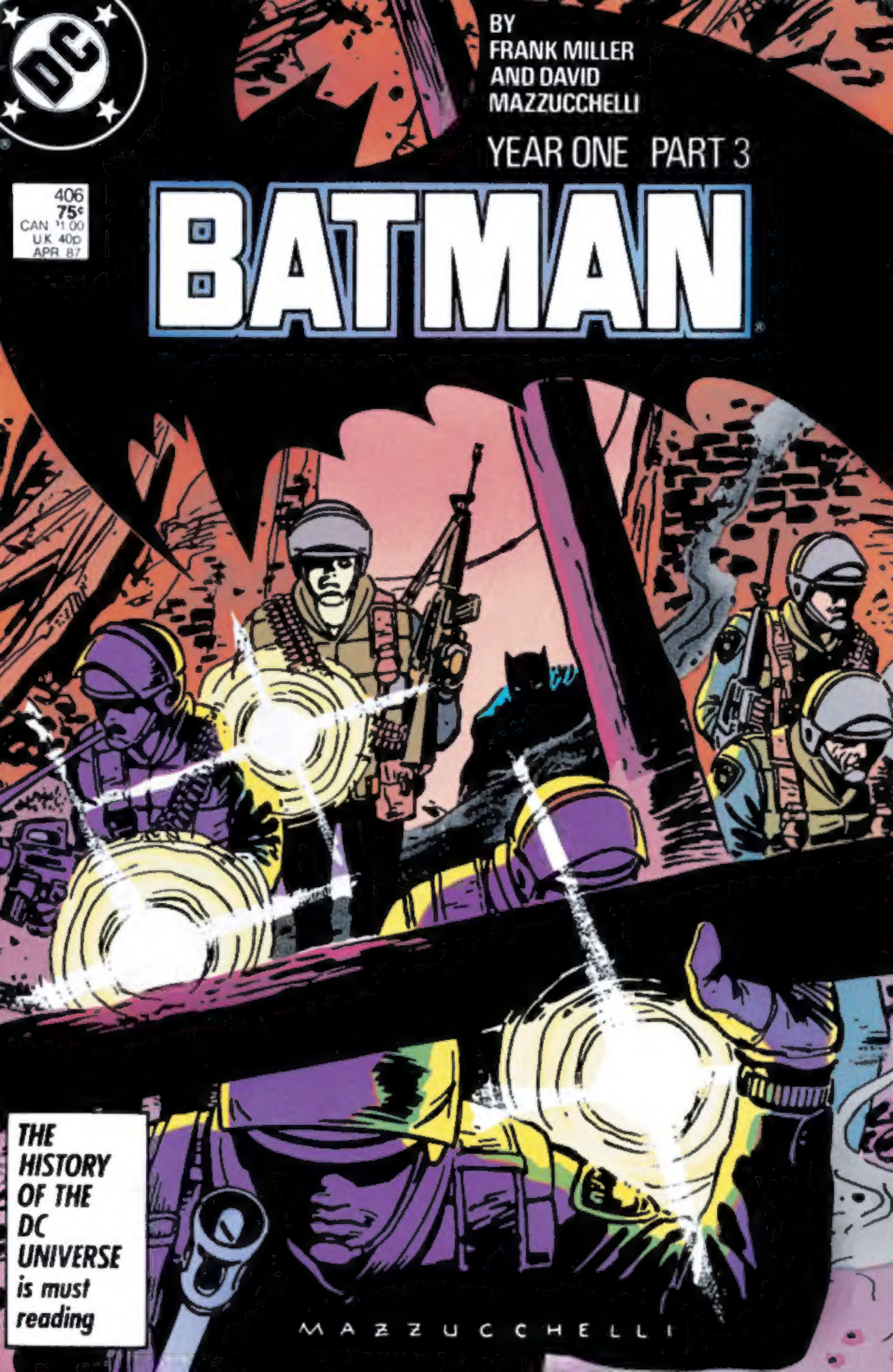
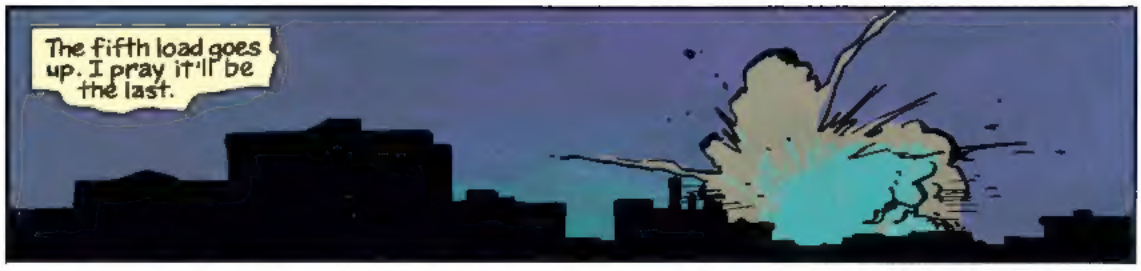

BY
FRANK MILLER
AND DAVID
MAZZUCCHELLI
YEAR ONE PART 3
BATMAN
406
75¢
CAN $1.00
U.K. 40p
APR 87
THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE is must reading
MAZZUCCHELLI

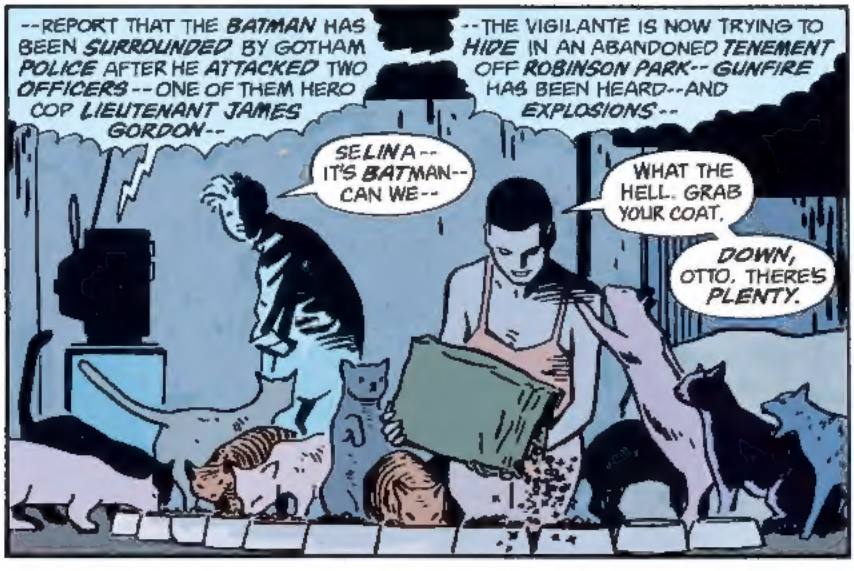
--stairwell's collapsing--fall with--
--get away from the fire--!
--that old man--doesn't have a chance--can't help him--
--can't help him--
--screaming--can't help him--
--oh no--
--thermite--in my belt--catching--
--get it off--
--still have weapons--in cape--and boots--
--need them--if I survive this--
--metal--
--trap door's metal--
--might be enough to protect me--
--provided that warning--is a lie--
DANGER
ELECTRICITY
80,000 WATTS
--lucky--keep the pick in my glove--
--lucky--

June 7
nffmgmm
GO WAY, OTTO. YOU DON' EAT FR 'N' HOUR.
MROWW
mmfgg
SIAMESE. TOO NOISY. SHOULD'VE LEFT YOU AT THE MARKET.
WHOLE CREW NOW. GANGING UP. IT'S MUTINY.
HOLLY. WHAT THE HELL TIME IS IT?
SELINA-- OUTSIDE--
MROWNRR
RRWREONW
RROWW
VOGUE
--EXPLOSIONS--
ggnf
CHRIST. NOT EVEN LIGHT OUT.
CHRIST. FIVE IN THE MORNING.
MMREEEONN
MRROWWWRRR
I'M BEING SERIOUS, SELINA. THINGS ARE BLOWING UP OVER BY ROBINSON PARK.
MAYBE BRANDEN'S CORNERED A JAYWALKER.
TURN THE TV ON, HOLLY. GOT TO HAVE SOMETHING ON THIS...


The fifth load goes up. I pray it'll be the last.

He will be soon, anyway. Branden and the collection of sociopaths he calls a swat team will see to that.
Commissioner's orders. That's what Branden told me.
The Police Commissioner of Gotham City wants a corpse.
THIS IS UNIT THREE-- WE ARE APPROACHING TARGET AREA--
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU--
NO PRISONERS, MEN.
BRANDEN

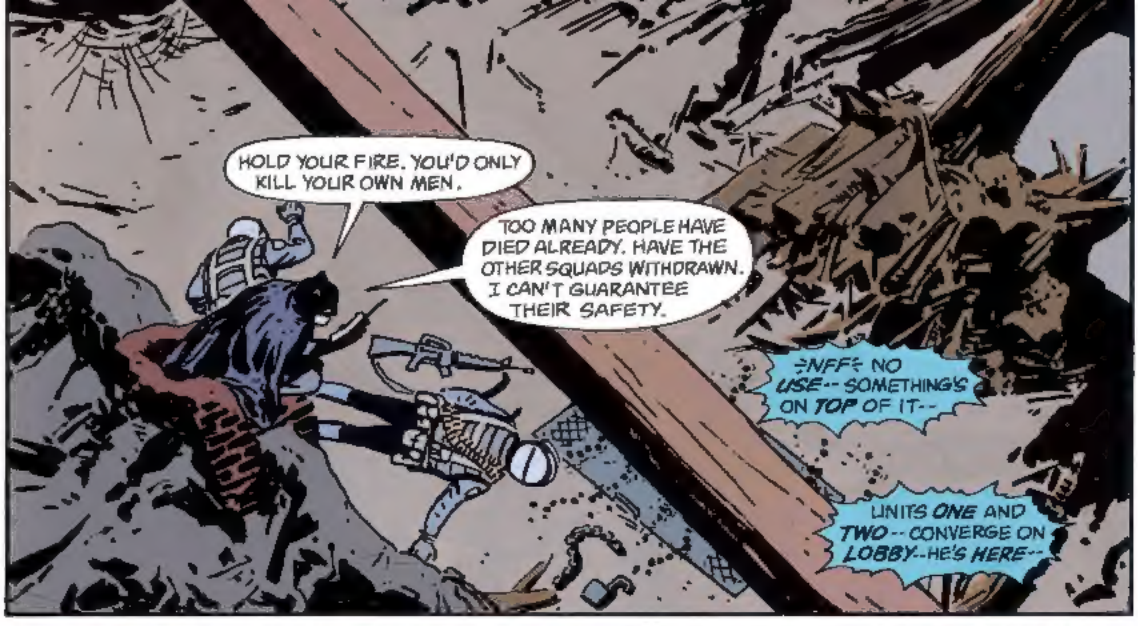
LIEUTENANT GORDON-- YOU SHOULDN'T BE STANDING JUST YET.
I'M ALL RIGHT...
Batman. He's made enemies of every criminal in Gotham--and nearly every elected official.
They've only got him cornered because he got hurt saving an old woman's life. They--
--I mean we, of course...


--REPORT THAT THE BATMAN HAS BEEN SURROUNDED BY GOTHAM POLICE AFTER HE ATTACKED TWO OFFICERS--ONE OF THEM HERO COP LIEUTENANT JAMES GORDON--
--THE VIGILANTE IS NOW TRYING TO HIDE IN AN ABANDONED TENEMENT OFF ROBINSON PARK-- GUNFIRE HAS BEEN HEARD--AND EXPLOSIONS--
SELINA-- IT'S BATMAN-- CAN WE--
WHAT THE HELL. GRAB YOUR COAT.
DOWN, OTTO. THERE'S PLENTY.

--NOW THERE IS TENSE SILENCE--EYEWITNESSES SAY A HEAVILY ARMED SWAT TEAM OF EIGHTEEN MEN HAS ENTERED THE BUILDING--

--WE HAVE ENTERED THE LOBBY--NO SIGN OF HIM YET--
UNIT ONE, REPORTING--SECOND FLOOR'S A MESS--NOTHING LIVING--
UNIT TWO, REPORTING--FOUND A BODY UNDER THE WATER HEATER--JUST AN OLD WINO--
KEEP IT TIGHT--KEEP IT TIGHT--
OVER HERE--GIVE ME SOME LIGHT--
JUST A CHIMNEY--
--NO--DOWN THERE--OVER THERE--THE FLOOR--
--IF HE GOT DOWN THERE--TRAPDOOR'S METAL--HE MIGHT'VE SURVIVED--
--SO PERFORATE IT, SOLDIER--
UNITS ONE AND TWO--STAY WHERE YOU ARE--THIS IS ONLY PRECAUTIONARY FIRE--
IF HE'S DOWN THERE--HE TRAPPED HIMSELF--
BRAKABRAKABR

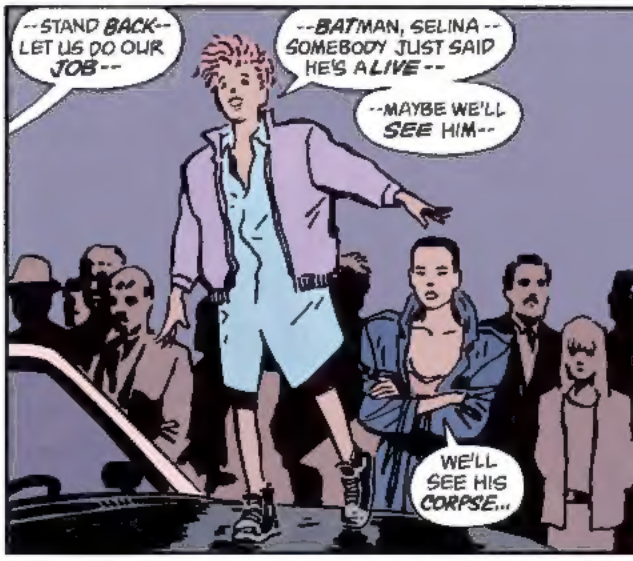
PRAEGER! FENTON! SUSSMAN! DOWNSIDE! MOVE IT!
--CHECKING BASEMENT AREA-- NO TROUBLE YET--
ANOTHER WINO UP HERE-- HE'S COLD--
--WAIT-- GOT SOMETHING--
--NO-- IT'S JUST A DOG--
STEADY BURST IF YOU FIND HIM--NO MATTER HOW DEAD HE LOOKS--
--GO FOR THE CHEST--WE'LL NEED HIS FACE FOR IDENTIFICATION--
-- NO TROUBLE YET--
-- JESUS-- ANOTHER WINO --THEY SAID THE PLACE WAS DESERTED--
SUPER MUST'VE LIVED HERE--
HONK IF YOU
god is
NOBODY HOME NOW--
NOTHING HERE, MEN. WE'RE COMING BACK UP.
THOOM
I LIKE YOU RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, BRANDEN.


HOLD YOUR FIRE. YOU'D ONLY KILL YOUR OWN MEN.
TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED ALREADY. HAVE THE OTHER SQUADS WITHDRAWN. I CAN'T GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY.
=NFF= NO USE-- SOMETHING'S ON TOP OF IT--
UNITS ONE AND TWO-- CONVERGE ON LOBBY--HE'S HERE--

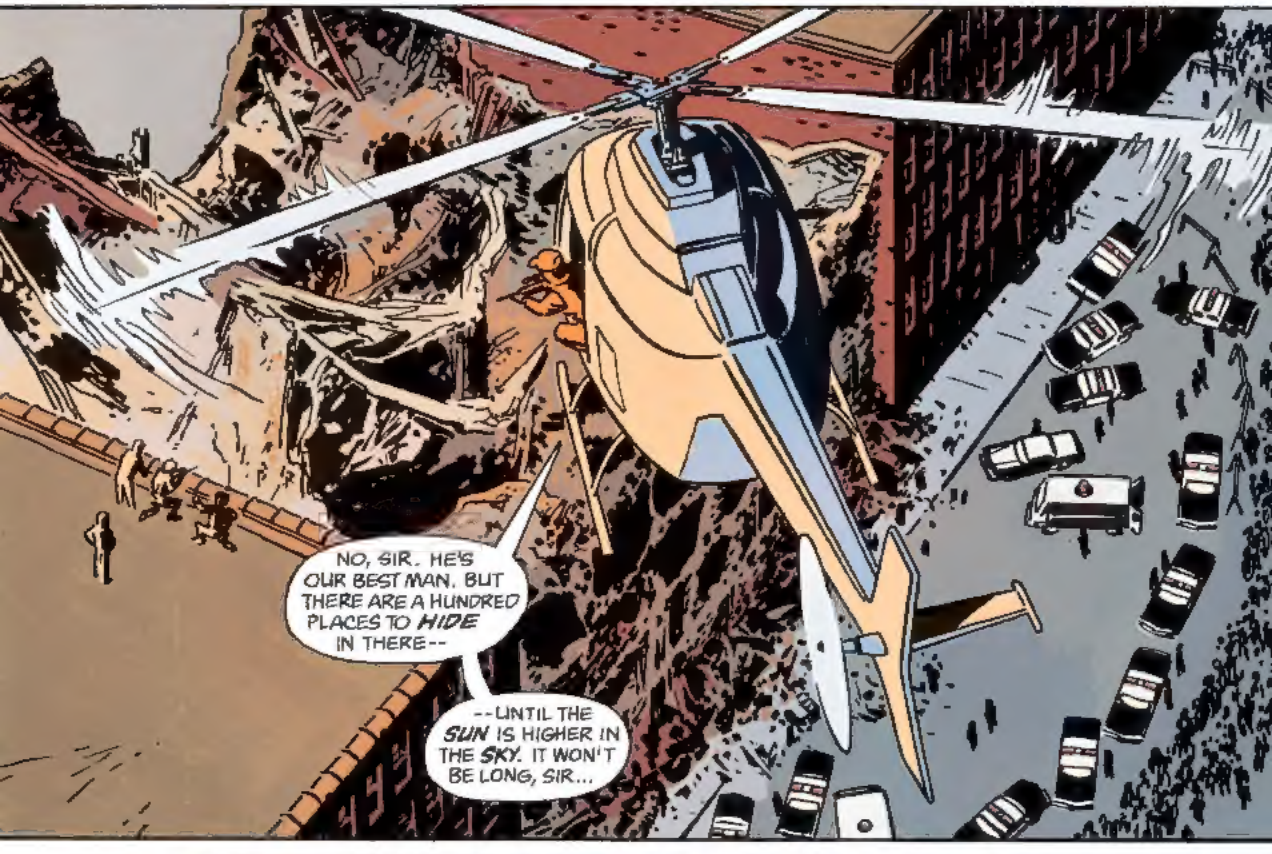
--SHOOT ON SIGHT--
FSSS
HERE, SIR-- A HOLE IN THE WALL-- MUST'VE BEEN A FIRE-PLACE HERE ONCE--

--MUST'VE KICKED THROUGH-- CLIMBED UP THE CHIMNEY--
--WHA--
GAS MASKS! FAST!
SSSSS

--UNIT ONE-- DO YOU COPY?
I THINK BRANDEN NEEDS SOME HELP, LIEUTENANT.
WE CAN'T HELP, MERKEL. ORDERS. BREAKS MY HEART.
STAND BACK--


--STAND BACK-- LET US DO OUR JOB--
--BATMAN, SELINA -- SOMEBODY JUST SAID HE'S ALIVE --
--MAYBE WE'LL SEE HIM--
WE'LL SEE HIS CORPSE...

SIR--HE'S TAKEN OUT UNIT THREE...THE WHOLE UNIT, COMMISSIONER...
THIS WILL NOT DO. THIS WILL NOT DO AT ALL.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR MARKSMAN? I TRUST YOU DIDN'T GET ME A BLIND MARKSMAN, DID YOU?

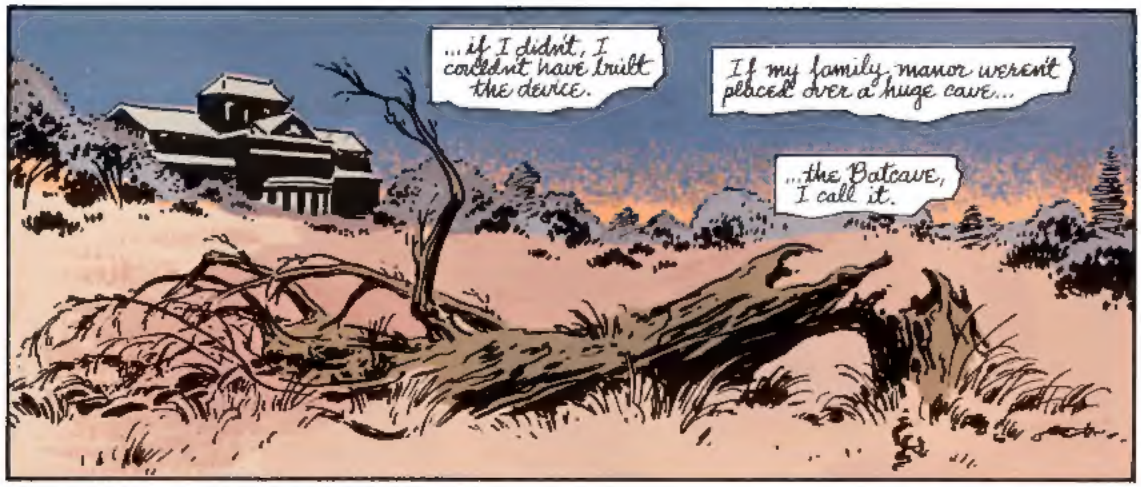

NO, SIR. HE'S OUR BEST MAN. BUT THERE ARE A HUNDRED PLACES TO HIDE IN THERE--
--UNTIL THE SUN IS HIGHER IN THE SKY. IT WON'T BE LONG, SIR...

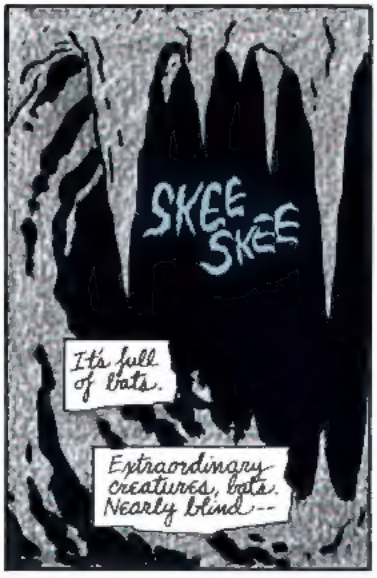
The only other survivor of the attack shares a shrinking shadow with me.
I owe him an apology.

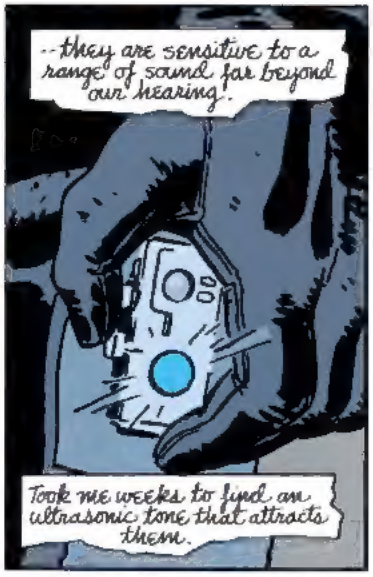
I've made a mess of things. Let it all get out of hand.
The enemy is closing in, relentless, unstoppable...

...through a crack in the wall I look at him.

With my belt, I lost my rope, my thermite, my tear gas -- even my batarangs.
I'm down to the blowgun in my boot--
KREEE
STEP IT UP--
CAREFUL-- STAIRS ARE GIVING--
WHAT THE HELL--
JUST A CAT, MAN--
IT'S A BAT WE'RE AFTER--
KEEP AN EYE OUT--
RREEOOWWW
Knew he wouldn't stay quiet.
Siamese.
Down to the blowgun and its three darts--
--and an unofficial invention of Wayne Electronics.
Haven't tested it for this great a distance. Or for use in daylight.
Too bad I can't afford to patent it. I'd make a fortune.
But then, I already have a fortune...


...if I didn't, I couldn't have built the device.
If my family manor weren't placed over a huge cave...
...the Batcave, I call it.


SKEE SKEE
It's full of bats.
Extraordinary creatures, bats. Nearly blind--


--they are sensitive to a range of sound far beyond our hearing.
Took me weeks to find an ultrasonic tone that attracts them.

All of them.
SKEE SKEE SKEE

Wayne Manor is miles from Gotham. They'll take a few minutes to get here--
--should things go well.

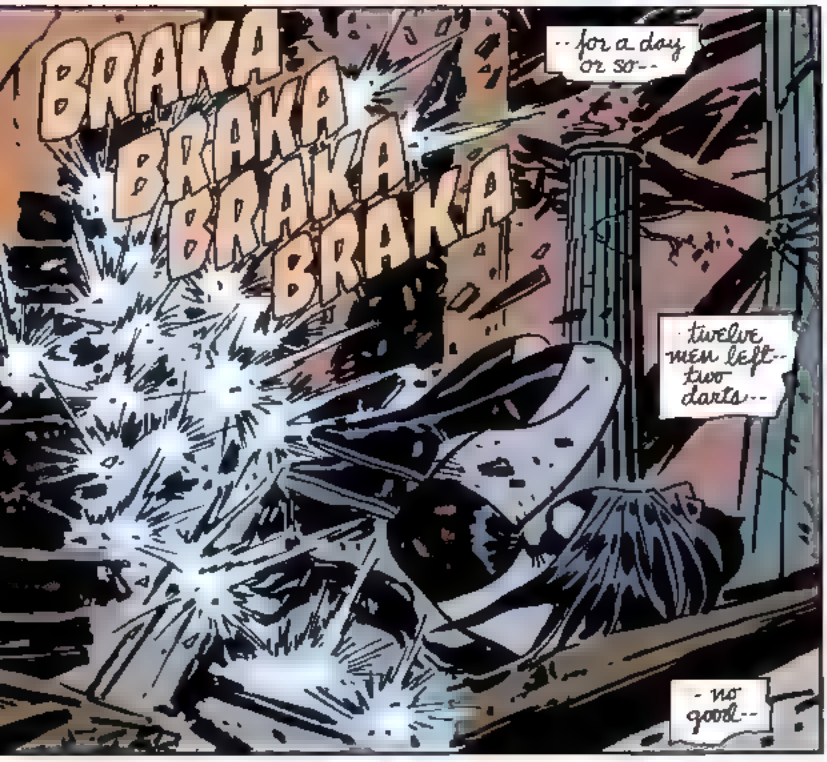
Wait... wait...
...let them waste all the time they want...

KEEEOOOWWRRR--
STEADY, MAN--JUST THAT CAT AGAIN--
--GETTING ON MY NERVES--

=WHFF= WHOEVER BATMAN IS - HE'S STRONGER THAN A .
QUIET--HE COULD BE =NFFGNN= NYWHERE .
SAID HE WAS N THE CHIMNEY--THERE--
HOLD IT, YOU IDIOT--

DROP THAT BEAM-- THEY WEREN'T QUICK ENOUGH -THEY'RE USELESS--
--WE'RE LUCKY HE DIDN'T KILL THEM--

--NOW FAN OUT--YOU'RE LEAVING YOURSELVES WIDE OP
HHKKK
The slightest dose of Anaconda on the darts-- enough to put a man to sleep--


BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA
--for a day or so--
twelve men left-- two darts--
- no good--

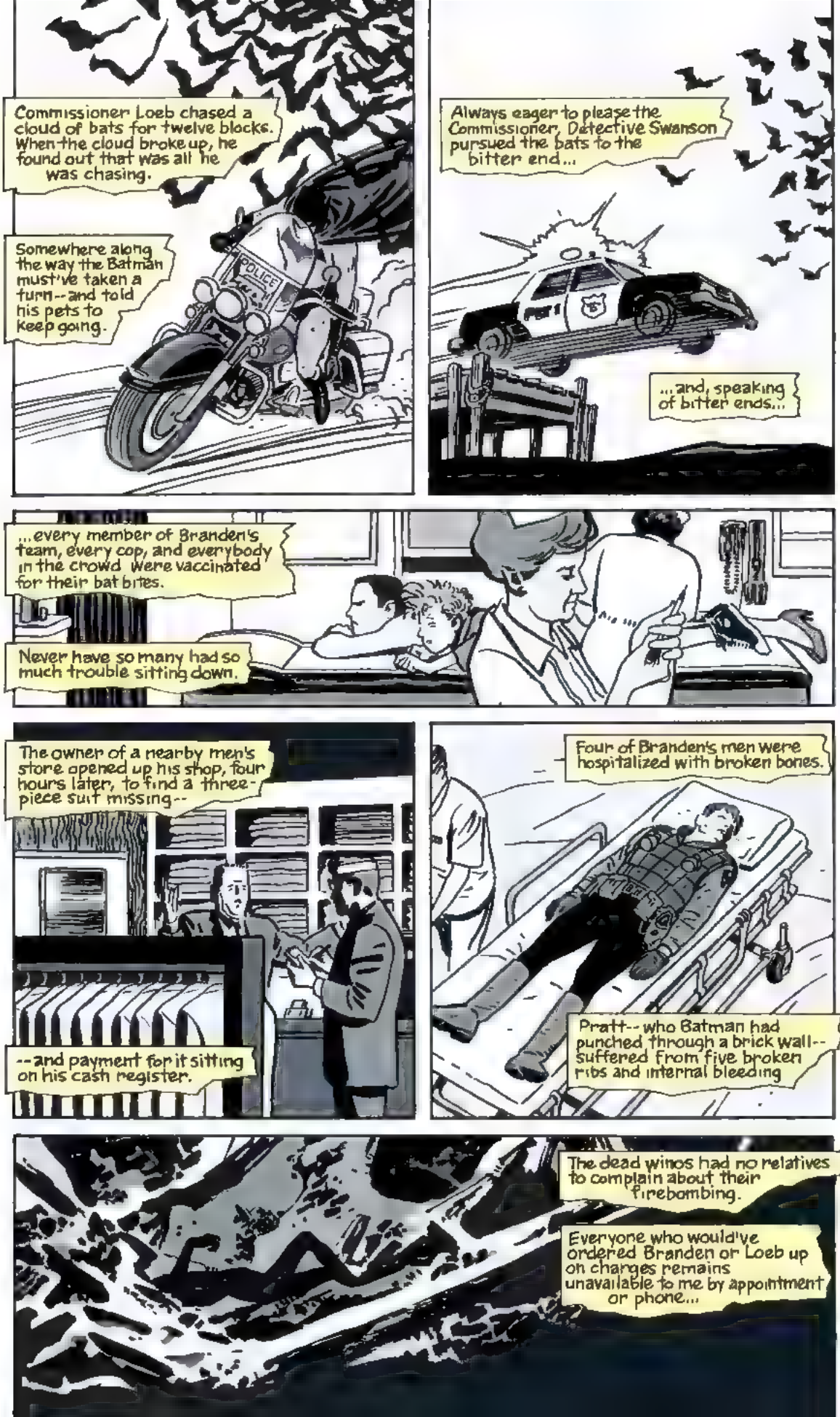
--one bullet - will make all the difference--
--they've got thousands--
SPAKK

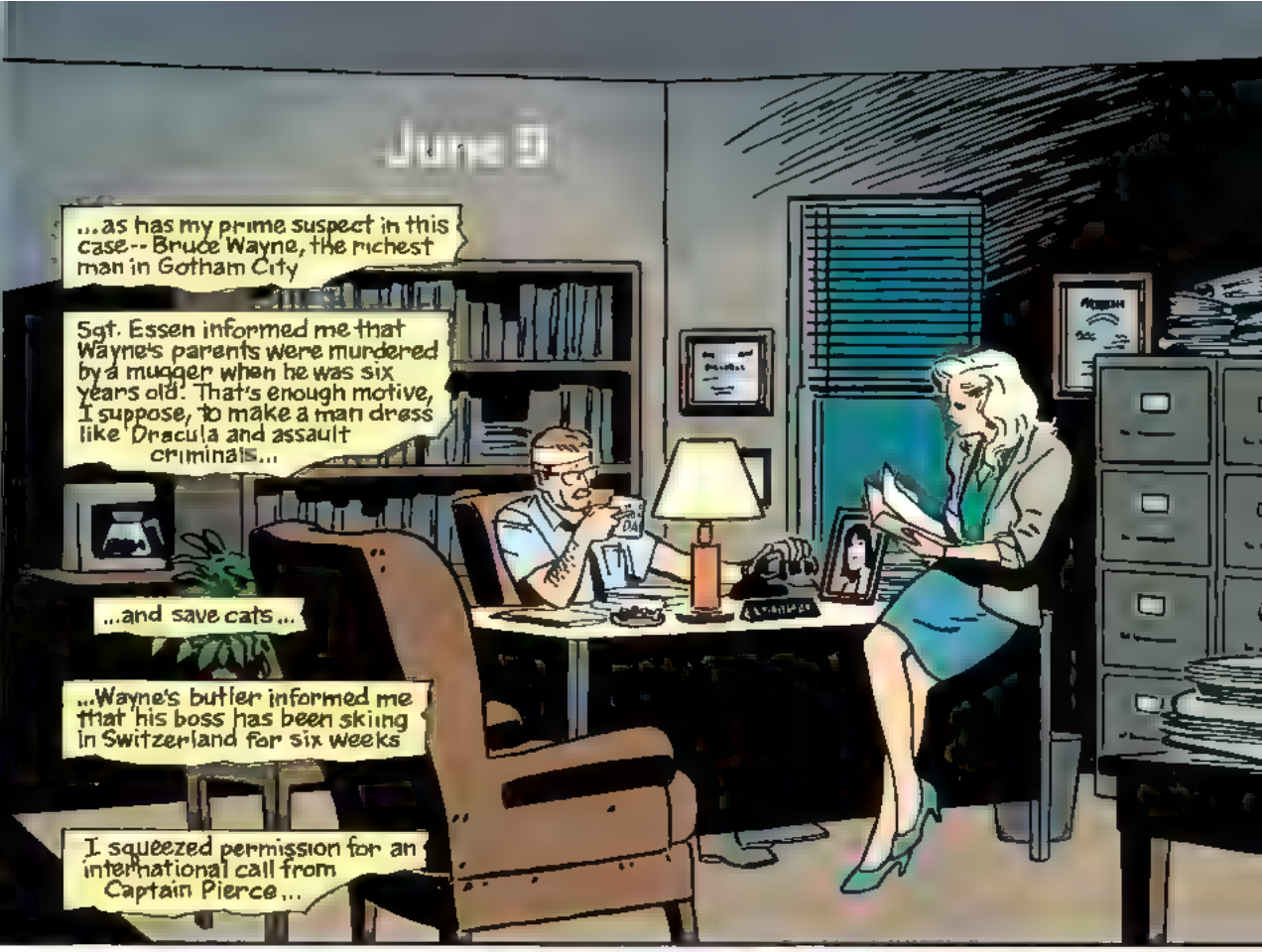
BRAKABRAKABRAKABRAKABRAKABRAKABRAK
--THERE
CAN T SEE H M-- WHERE
MOVES SO FAST--
-DARK--
--COULD BE ANYWHERE--
REEOW
WHA-
--DAMN THAT CAT--
BRAKABRAKABRAKABRAKABRAKABRAKA
--THERE--
--SO FAST--
WREEOWWWW
WRE EE
NGG
--TAGGED HIM-- CLOSE IN--
COMMISSIONER-- FOR GOD'S SAKE-- COME IN--
--THOSE IDIOTS ARE FIRING OUT THE WINDOWS-- FOR GOD'S--
NGAAA
--MERKEL!--

GOT HIM--
--GET IN CLOSE-- CUT THAT BASTARD IN HALF--
--GOT HIM, MAN. WE'VE GOT HIM--
Groggy - losing too much blood.
-had to-- put a bullet in my good leg-- didn't they.
KKRAAAKKK
--forget it-- ignore it--
-put what's left into it--
YOU'RE THE ONE --

--WHO TRIED TO SHOOT THE CAT--
HHWHFFF
:KOFF:
CAN'T SEE--
BRAKK
CAN'T MOVE--GET ME OUT--
The crowd is all screams and angry shouts. Then, I hear a wrecking ball take out the wall--
--and a hardware store clatter across the street;
A cheer goes up. They've made a hero out of him.
Then the cheering disintegrates...
...and the screaming starts again...
THWOKK
--ART--GET OUT OF THE WAY--
--LOOK--
WHAT THE HELL--
--UP THERE--
MY GOD--
MY GOD--

PCT 1
MY LORD, WHAT'S-
THERE-- DOWN THERE-- HE'S GOT A MOTORCYCLE-- GET AFTER HIM OR I'LL HAVE YOU SHOT--
--GET AFTER HIM--


Commissioner Loeb chased a cloud of bats for twelve blocks. When the cloud broke up, he found out that was all he was chasing.
Somewhere along the way the Batman must've taken a turn--and told his pets to keep going.
POLICE
Always eager to please the Commissioner, Detective Swanson pursued the bats to the bitter end...
...and, speaking of bitter ends...
...every member of Branden's team, every cop, and everybody in the crowd were vaccinated for their bat bites.
Never have so many had so much trouble sitting down.
The owner of a nearby men's store opened up his shop, four hours later, to find a three-piece suit missing--
--and payment for it sitting on his cash register.
Four of Branden's men were hospitalized with broken bones.
Pratt-- who Batman had punched through a brick wall-- suffered from five broken ribs and internal bleeding
The dead winos had no relatives to complain about their firebombing.
Everyone who would've ordered Branden or Loeb up on charges remains unavailable to me by appointment or phone...


June 3
...as has my prime suspect in this case-- Bruce Wayne, the richest man in Gotham City
Sgt. Essen informed me that Wayne's parents were murdered by a mugger when he was six years old. That's enough motive, I suppose, to make a man dress like Dracula and assault criminals...
...and save cats...
...Wayne's butler informed me that his boss has been skiing in Switzerland for six weeks
I squeezed permission for an international call from Captain Pierce...

...I've had easier root canals-- you'd think Pierce was paying for the call out of his own pocket...
...and I spoke to somebody in Switzerland who said he was Bruce Wayne--
--then told me he'd taken a nasty spill on the slopes--broken both legs and one arm--

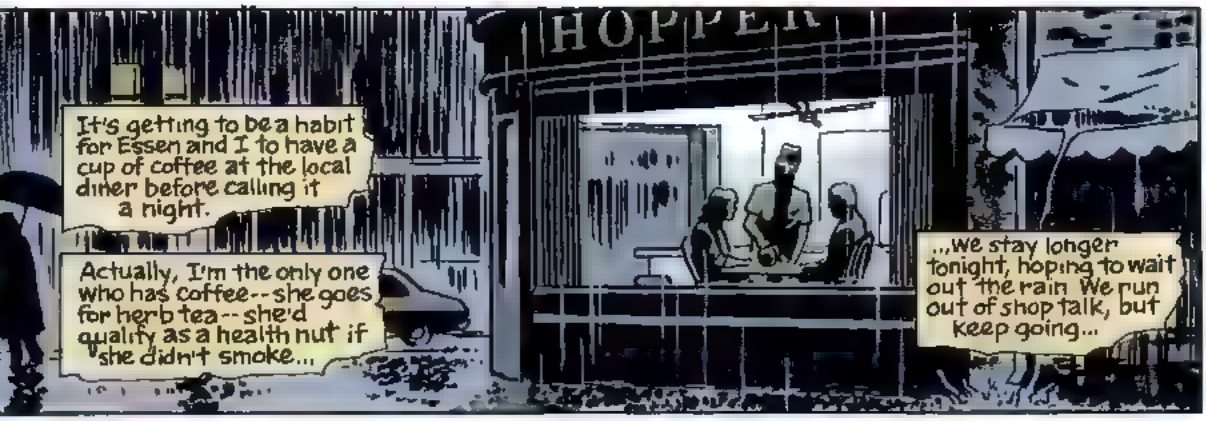
--but assured me he'd be back in the country in a month. Said he'd be happy to talk with me. Laughed when I mentioned Batman.
Asked me for his autograph.
WAYNE COULD AFFORD AN IMPERSONATOR-- AND CASTS ON HIS ARM AND LEGS WOULD COVER BULLET WOUNDS--EXACTLY WHERE BATMAN RECEIVED THEM...

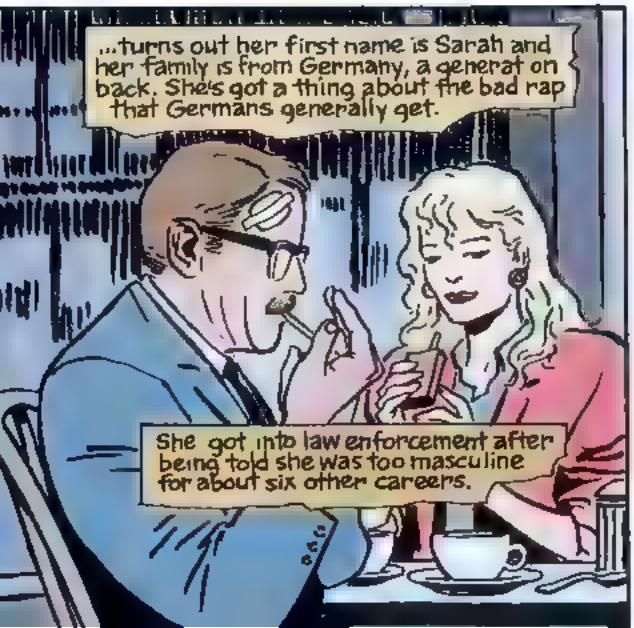
..I'M SORRY, ESSEN DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
WORLD'S GREATEST DAD

YES, SIR. IT'S QUITTING TIME.
SHARE A CAB?
Think of her as a cop.
Think of her as a cop.
June 15
I leave the casts and the sleeping alibis back at the lodge.
They were so eager to support my story with Lieutenant Gordon -- all I had to say was that a woman was involved --
--one of them even pretended to be me, just for laughs, before I arrived....
..the air is cold and sharp and hard to breathe -- it's good to be alive --
--I don't deserve to be alive
This isn't a game. I can't afford mistakes
I have to learn to make it work -- step by step - method by method -
--but that won't be enough.
Too many people want me dead.
I can't do it alone
I need an ally -- an inside man.
I need Jim Gordon.
On my side.

June 17

SELINA-- YOU PUNCHED STAAN -
WE'RE CHANGING OUR LINE OF WORK, HOLLY
I GOT AN IDEA
HOTEL

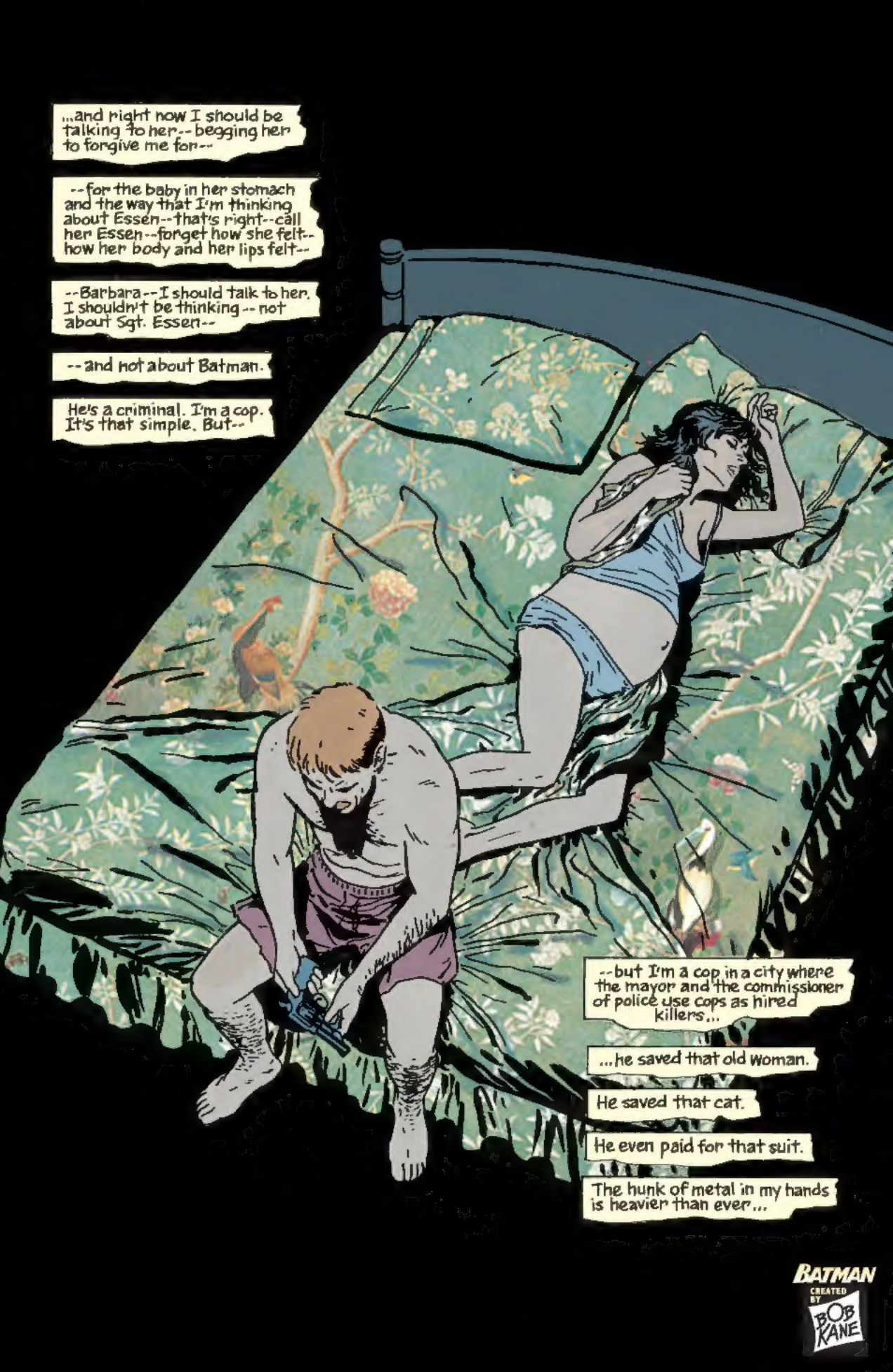

It's getting to be a habit for Essen and I to have a cup of coffee at the local diner before calling it a night.
Actually, I'm the only one who has coffee-- she goes for herb tea-- she'd qualify as a health nut if she didn't smoke...
...we stay longer tonight, hoping to wait out the rain. We run out of shop talk, but keep going...

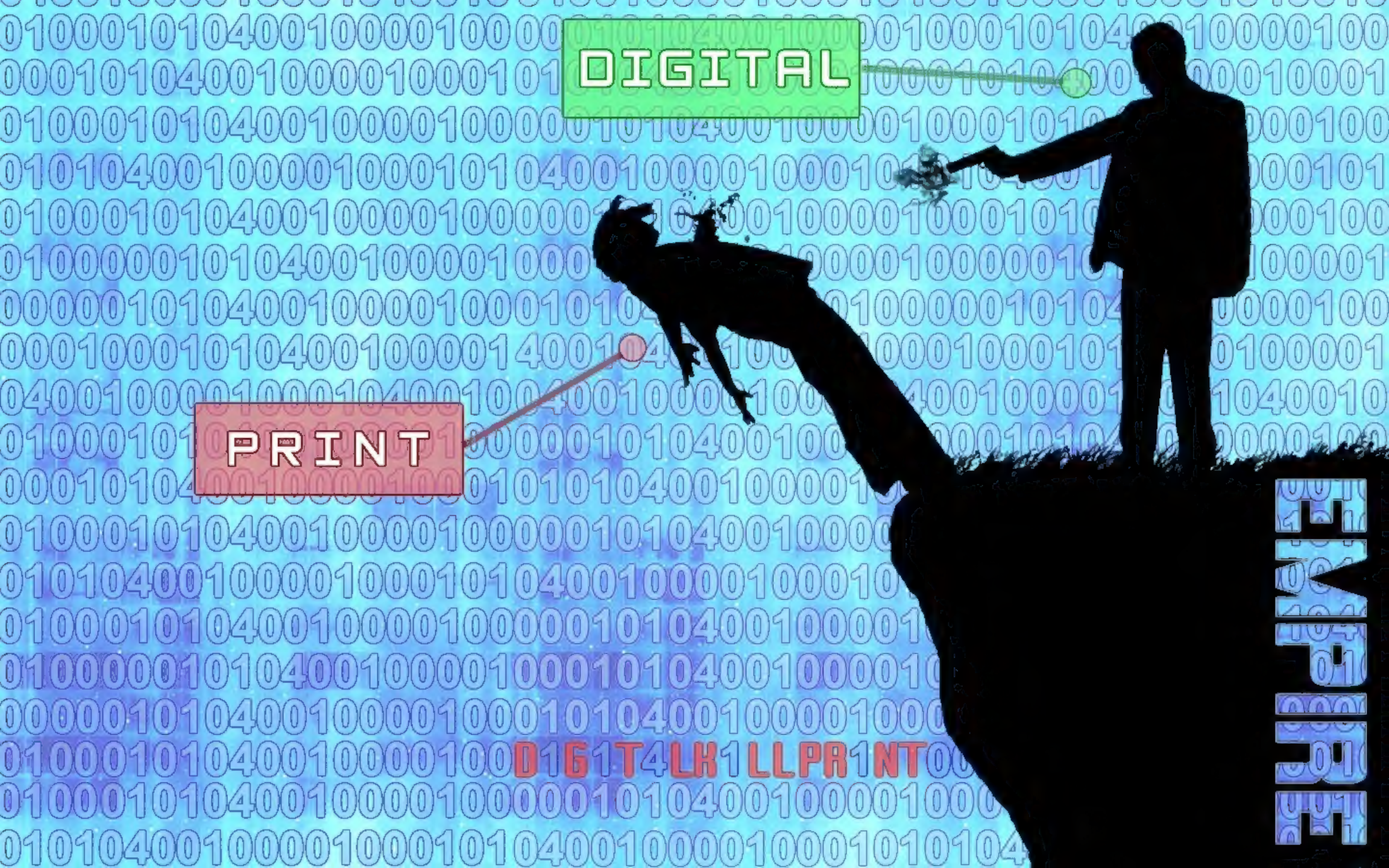

...turns out her first name is Sarah and her family is from Germany, a generation back. She's got a thing about the bad rap that Germans generally get.
She got into law enforcement after being told she was too masculine for about six other careers.

Whoever told her she was masculine must've been blind, deaf, and dead.

The rain's eased up and I'm an hour late and feeling terrible about having forgotten to call Barbara when we decide to risk it and look for a cab.
A group of bikers notice Essen's legs and make the usual remarks.
We ignore them and keep walking.
Turns out she's from Chicago, some years back. Small world.
Even went to the same place for ribs. I'm sure I would've noticed her...
...though, come to think of it, she was probably in high school then...
...Gotham weather. Just when the rain seems to be clearing up, lightning flashes--
--and we learn how Noah felt. Not having an ark, we settle for a doorway.

A cab comes. She takes it. We don't say good night.
August 7
I DON'T KNOW, SELINA-- I MEAN, YOU SPENT ALL OUR MONEY ON THAT COSTUME--
I MEAN, IT'S PRETTY QUEER--
I MEAN--
IT'S MONEY, HOLLY. BE A KICK. JUST WATCH.
SELINA--
I hate this city.
I hate myself and the night and everything it brings.
Mostly, I hate it when she cries...
...another fight. We fight so much, Barbara and I. She tells me I'm away too much and just when I should apologize, I snap at her... I freeze up inside...
...tonight, she called the office and I wasn't there-- I was out having coffee with Sarah--
--Sarah--my God, I'm calling her Sarah now... it's all wrong...
...and Barbara's right, as always...


...and right now I should be talking to her-- begging her to forgive me for--
--for the baby in her stomach and the way that I'm thinking about Essen--that's right--call her Essen--forget how she felt-- how her body and her lips felt--
--Barbara--I should talk to her. I shouldn't be thinking-- not about Sgt. Essen--
--and not about Batman.
He's a criminal. I'm a cop. It's that simple. But--
--but I'm a cop in a city where the mayor and the commissioner of police use cops as hired killers...
...he saved that old woman.
He saved that cat.
He even paid for that suit.
The hunk of metal in my hands is heavier than ever...
BATMAN
CREATED BY
BOB KANE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